



D1 Pattern of Police Torture in Pakistan

Waseem Haider, PhD, Surgeon MedicoLegal Punjab, 126 Mehran Block, Allama Iqbal Town, Lahore, Punjab 54000, Pakistan; and A.S. Khan, MBBS, MPhil, University of Health Sciences, Jamia Punjab Road, Lahore, Punjab 54000, Pakistan*

After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the originality of police torture in third world and developing countries.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by demonstrating the results of research work by forensic scientists from various developed and developing countries. It has been observed that there exist significant differences between countries regarding circumstances, torture methods, and sequel to torture. This knowledge is of value to forensic specialists documenting alleged torture and essential for fair and valid forensic statements.

Following the September 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, much support for torture interrogation of terrorists has emerged in the public forum, largely based on the “ticking bomb” scenario. The counterargument, of course, is that in a society destroyed by terrorism there will be nothing to repair. That is why the actual causal mechanism of torture interrogation in curtailing terrorism must be elucidated rather than presumed.

A study of 1820 victims of alleged police torture was examined at the office of Surgeon Medico legal Punjab Lahore during a period of 5 years. Most of the victims at the time of examination were showing visible evidence of physical trauma. Victims were mainly males, ranging between the ages of 15 – 29 years (61%). The poor labor class from rural areas were shown more violence by police and agencies. Examination was conducted on the directions of various courts (Judicial Magistrates, District & Session Judges, and Lahore high court). A wide range of different types of injuries of different durations were observed on various parts of the body. Blunt trauma was most frequent and the most common weapon used was the big flat oil dipped slipper. Psychological element of torture was also seen in some victims. Sexual trauma to females and child abuse was observed in a number of cases; such harassment was a hallmark of Political victimization.

Police, Torture, Victim